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Group of two Letters to Air Force Marshal Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Aleksandr Koldunov on occasion of 60th Birthday, 1983.

1. Letter of greetings from the administration of the Gorizont (Horizon) plant, manufacturing navigational and radiolocation electronics, primarily for military use.

In luxurious velvet-wrapped folder measuring approx. 9" x 13", with Koldunov's full name on the cover, in gold. The document is in folder format, with the wording on the title page reading "To Twice Hero of the Soviet Union, Air Force Marshal, comrade Aleksandr Ivanovich Koldunov on his 60th Birthday". The greeting praises Koldunov's role in modernizing air defense in his post of the Supreme Commander of Air Defense of the Soviet Armed Forces.

In very good condition. The cover has a minuscule amount of wear to the corners and head and foot of the spine, as well as two tiny moth nips on the back. The document inside is pristine.

2. Letter of greetings from the administration and employees of the Central Science and Research Institute at the Ministry of Defense.

In leatherette-wrapped folder measuring approx. 8 ³/⁴" x 12". The document is in folder format, with the wording on the title page reading "To Air Force Marshal, Twice Hero of the Soviet Union, comrade Aleksandr Ivanovich Koldunov on his 60th Birthday". The letter is signed by the institute's director, secretary of the party committee, and chairman of the trade union organization.

In good condition. The front cover shows minor storage wear and a tiny rip in the center of the right edge. The back cover has what looks like partial doodles, the origins of which are anybody's guess. The wear is not too detractive. Condition of the document inside could be rated as excellent if not for some oily substance that left an assortment of mostly small stains. The text is almost entirely unaffected by these stains, the print and signatures are vibrantly red and crisp.

Supreme Marshal of Air Force Alexander Koldunov (Александр Иванович Колдунов, 1923 - 1992) was the eighth highest scoring Soviet fighter ace of WW2, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, and Supreme Commander of the Soviet Air Defense in the late 70s through the late 80s.

Although a highly skilled and illustrious fighter pilot, Koldunov's claim to fame in the West centered around friendly fire incidents and failure to prevent Mathias Rust, a West German, from landing a Cessna airplane on Moscow's Red Square. This humiliation to the entire Soviet armed forces led to Koldunov's immediate dismissal.

Koldunov's fortunes rose during WW2 as a Yak pilot when he became a specialist in the hit-and-run diving attack, aggressively firing at close quarters and breaking away to attack again. Many of his air victories were scored against Luftwaffe fighter craft in the Southern sector. Koldunov's WW2 service included one of aviation history's most unlikely dogfights - against USAAF Lightnings of the 15th AF in a case of mistaken identity. Koldunov, who reportedly shot down 3 American aircraft in the melee, put an end to the friendly fire incident by bravely closing alongside the Lightnings to establish his flight's identity as "friendly" Soviets.

While his postwar career began with great promise, the specter of friendly fire seemed to plague Koldunov, and his career ultimately ended in a humiliation of epic proportions.

In 1968 Koldunov was Deputy Commander of the Baku Air Defense District. One year later he was moved to the Ministry of Defense for a brief tour of duty, and in 1970 he succeeded Colonel-General Vasilii Okunev as CINC of the ultra-important Moscow Air Defense District.

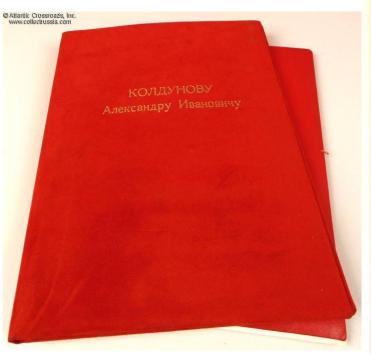
Koldunov's career continued to rise. In 1978 he was promoted to Marshal of the Air Force in charge of PVO (Anti Air Defense) of the entire country. It was at this post that his career began to unravel. In 1978, a missile was fired at a commercial airliner with loss of 2 people. On September 1, 1983, a commercial 747 airliner, Korean Air Flight 007, strayed off course and was shot down resulting in needless death of 269 civilians. But it wasn't until 1987 that his career came to an end at the hands of 19-year-old West German student Mathias Rust who penetrated air defenses under Koldunov's authority, to land his Cessna in Red Square.

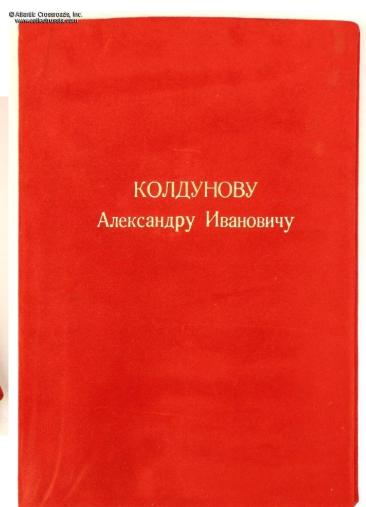
The event hit the Soviet Union like a bombshell as it became evident that the much-touted "impenetrable" air defense system was a hollow shell created by the Communist propaganda machine, like so much else that was the Soviet Union. Koldunov was forced to retire from his post, a humiliation that perhaps contributed to his death in 1992. Although Koldunov was made a scapegoat for this failure, the truth was fast becoming clear to the Soviet population. Events like Rust's flight and the Chernobyl nuclear accident a year earlier created a very real sense that the Communist Regime was teetering on the brink of collapse.

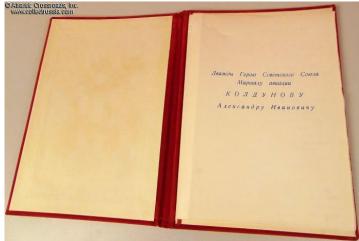
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Уважаемый Александр Иванович!

В день Вашего славного шестидесятилетия примите искренние поздравления от руководства, партийной, профсоюзной, комсомольской организаций и всего коллектива Государственного союзного завода "Горизонт".

Весь Ваш жизненный путь прославленного летика-истребителя и командира в годы Великой Отегественной войны, энергигного и авторитетного руководителя на высоких командных постах в послевоенные годы, Маршала авнации, I лавнокомандующего войсками IIBO страны является ярким примером преданности Коммунистической партии и беззаветному служению Советскому государству!

Ваши деловые катества, Аизненный и боевой опыт, глубокие знания современного уровня развития авиационной и ракетной техники, тактики и стратегинитрименение в повседневную жизнь войск и неустанная Забота о пополнении их новейшей техникой служат Залогом дальнейших успехов в деле укрепления обороноспособности нашей страны.

Желаем Вам, Александр Ивановиг, новых успехов в Вашей многогранной и многотрудной работе и службе, крепкого Здоровья и стастья!

Главный конструктор

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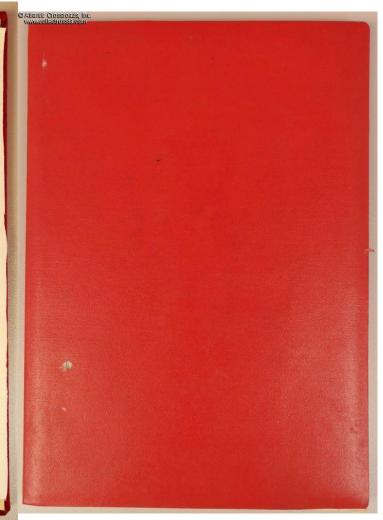
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Мутт В. В. Ильичев Н. Саганурия Н. А. Солоницын

В. И. Трусевич

И. Ю. Волков





тов. КОЛДУНОВУ Александру Ивановичу

в день 60-летия

Уважаемый АЛЕКСАНДР ИВАНОВИЧ!

 Aliantic Crossroads, Inc www.collactrossia.com

> Коллектив Центрального научно-исследовательского института сердечно поздравляет Вас в день Вашего юбилея.

> Ваш путь от курсанта добровольца до видного военачальника является ярким образцом беззаветного служения нашей любимой Родине.

> нашей люоимой Године.
> В годы Великой Отечественной войны проявился Ваш высокий патриотизм. Ваш личный вклад в победу как летчика-истребителя высочайшего класса и беззаветной храбрости
> общенародно известен, мастерство и героизм, проявленные в
> воздушных боях Великой Отечественной войны, отмечены
> двумя золотыми звездами Героя Советского Союза и многими
> орденами и медалями.
> В мирое права Вы половается пробрам ПВО

В мирное время Вы возглавляете войска ПВО страны, которым доверено выполнение особой задачи государственной важности — несение боевого дежурства по обсениечению неприкосновенности воздушных рубежей нашей Родины.

мы высоко ценим Вас как видного военного руководителя, вносящего большой личный вклад в дело укрепления могущества нашего социалистического государства, особо отмечая высокопринципиальный подход к созданию, испытаниям и использованию новейшей боевой техники, с глубоким пониманием перспектив развития специальных образцов вооружения.

Уважение и доверие народа проявилось в избрании Вас депутатом Верховного Совета СССР и членом ЦК КПСС.

С большим удовлетворением отмечаем, что свой юбилей Вы встречаете в полном расцвете творческих сил.

Искренне желаем Вам новых успехов в Вашей государственной и общественной деятельности на благо укрепления могущества нашей Родины, долгих лет жизни и семейного счастья.

Директор Савень, А. И. Савин Секретарь парткома Филь В. А. Логинов Председатель профкома Генерия В.-Д. Зуйков

